DOCUMENT PROFILE SHEET

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LOG NO: 1079
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FROM: ? TO: Bushnell DATE:

SUBJECT: Press guidance on Guyana operations asst

DISTRIBUTION

OFF	ACT	COORD	INFO	OFF	ACT	COORD	INFO	OFF	ACT	COORD	INFO
AS				AND				PPC			
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ACTION REQUESTED

____ Draft reply for ____ signature
____ Draft memo to President for signature by ____
____ Draft cover memo to ____ for signature by ____
____ Draft memo to ____ for signature by ____
____ Appropriate handling
____ Other (Specify): ____

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/GDC/MR
DATE
REVIEWED BY
DUE DATE:

ACTION TAKEN

DATE	FROM	TO	ACTION REQUIRED

DISPOSITION

DATE	FILED	REMARKS

GPO 935-176

Q: Why and under what authority did the government spend lots of money to bring back the bodies from Guyana?

A: On Sunday November 19 we faced a crisis situation in Guyana. An American Congressman had been killed as well as other Americans in his party; a settlement believed to include over 1000 Americans was involved and its situation was uncertain. We had already authorized medical evacuation for the injured Americans. We recognized that the resources of the Government of Guyana were over-strained by these events in an isolated area 120 miles from its capital. We offered whatever help the Government of Guyana might need to prevent further loss of life. The Guyanese indicated they needed helicopter lift and certain other items. As the events progressed, it became clear that we had large numbers of American dead. For a time we believed there might be many survivors in the jungle and we adjusted and increased our assistance to help the search by Guyana police and military. Finally, when the number of dead was clear, there was no alternative in terms of identification, supporting the ongoing investigation of serious crimes, and treating the remains with dignity but to remove them as quickly as possible to a facility which could deal with this immense problem. Throughout this tragedy I used my authority as Chief Executive and as Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces to provide the support needed and

requested by the Government of Guyana to handle this horrendous situation. The primary cost was for transportation supplied by the U.S. military.

Q: How will this operation be paid for?

A: No one envisioned such an event in preparing budgets. I shall seek additional appropriations to cover the costs when Congress returns. The appropriate departments are ~~also~~ examining the responsibilities of the Peoples Temple organization in regard to these costs. We are also examining what existing ~~Government~~ funds are adequate to cover this kind of emergency.